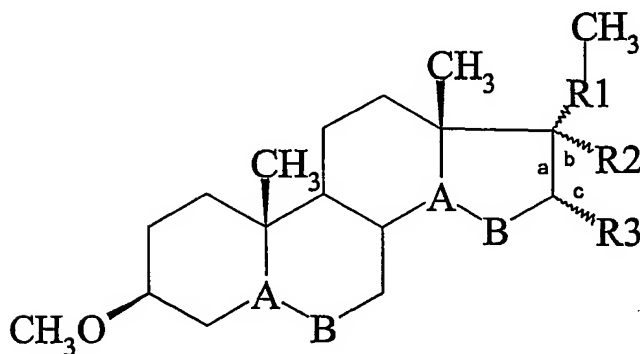


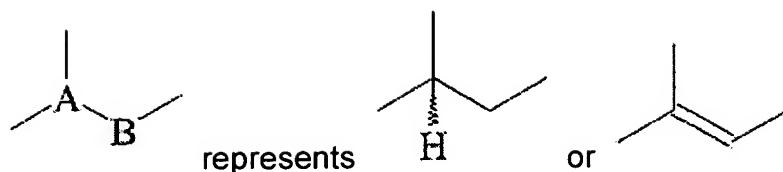
**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for treating an acute or chronic lesion or a degenerative disease of the nervous system by stimulating the polymerization and/or the stabilization of microtubules in a patient, comprising the administration to said patient of an effective quantity of a drug comprising ~~The administration of 3 $\beta$ -methoxy-pregna-5-ene-20-one (3-methoxy-PREG)~~ or a molecule derived from pregnenolone that contains a 3-methoxy function and is incapable of being converted into a metabolite or ester sulfate of pregnenolone, ~~for the preparation of a drug to stimulate the polymerization and/or the stabilization of microtubules to treat an acute or chronic lesion or a degenerative disease of the nervous system, with the aforementioned~~ wherein said molecule derived from pregnenolone presenting is of formula I:



in which:

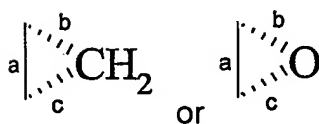


R1 = -CO-; -CH(OH)- or -CH(O-COCH<sub>3</sub>)-

R2 = H or CHCl<sub>2</sub>,

R3 = H or CH<sub>3</sub>, or

R2 and R3 together form a ring:



2. (Currently Amended) The use method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the ~~aforementioned~~ said disease or lesion is selected from the group comprising Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, age-induced memory loss, memory loss induced by the taking of substances, a traumatic lesion, a cerebral lesion, a lesion of the spinal cord, in particular medullary compression, ischemia, pain, notably neuritic pain, nerve degeneration, and multiple sclerosis.

3. (Currently Amended) The use method according to claim 1, wherein the ~~aforementioned~~ said drug also comprises an excipient that makes it possible to formulate the ~~aforementioned~~ molecule derived from pregnenolone to cross the blood-brain barrier.

4. (Currently Amended) The use method according to ~~one of the claim~~[[s]] 1-  
~~to 3~~, wherein ~~the aforementioned~~said drug is ~~presented in an~~ administered by injectable  
injection form.

5. (Currently Amended) The use method according to ~~one of the claim~~[[s]] 1-  
~~to 3~~, wherein ~~the aforementioned~~said drug is ~~presented in an~~ administered orally.

6. (Currently Amended) The use method according to ~~one of the claim~~[[s]] 1-  
~~to 5~~, wherein ~~the aforementioned~~said molecule of formula I is 3-methoxy-PREG.

7. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 1, wherein said molecule of  
formula I is 3 $\beta$ -methoxy-pregna-5-ene-20-one-17 $\alpha$ -dichloromethyl.

8. (Currently Amended) The use method according to ~~one of the claim~~[[s]] 1-  
~~to 7~~, wherein ~~the aforementioned~~said drug comprises a quantity of 3-methoxy-  
pregnenolonePREG or of said molecule of formula I ~~a derived molecule~~ ranging  
between 50 and 2500 mg.

9. (Currently Amended) A drug consisting of 3-methoxy-pregnenolonePREG  
~~as a drug~~.

10. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition, comprising 3-  
methoxy-pregnenolonePREG or a molecule derived from pregnenolone that contains a  
3-methoxy function of general formula I as an active ingredient, and a pharmaceutically  
acceptable excipient.

11. (Withdrawn) An in vitro method for increasing the stabilization and/or inducing the polymerization of the microtubules in a cell, comprising the step of exposing the aforementioned cell to the presence of 3-methoxy-pregnenolone at a concentration of approximately 0.5 to 50  $\mu\text{mol}$ .

12. (Withdrawn) An in vitro method for increasing neuritic sprouting in a cell, comprising the step of exposing the aforementioned cell to the presence of 3-methoxy-pregnenolone at a concentration of approximately 0.5 to 50  $\mu\text{mol}$ .